



★ **Driving Trucking's Success**

November 14, 2002

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Dockets and Media Management
Room PL-401
400 Seventh Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: Docket No. OST-2002-13435

Dear Sir or Madam:

These comments are in response to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) published in the *Federal Register* on September 30, 2002 and its request for comments by November 14, 2002. The DOT's Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance (ODAPC) proposes to revise the Management Information System (MIS) forms currently used within six of DOT's operating administrations (OA) for reporting annual drug and alcohol program data. It proposes to streamline the annual reporting through the use of a one-page MIS data collection form.

The American Trucking Associations (ATA), with offices located at 2200 Mill Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-4677, is the national trade association of the trucking industry. Through our direct dues-paying members, our affiliated trucking associations located in every state, and their 30,000 motor carrier members, affiliated conferences, and other organizations, ATA represents every type and class of motor carrier in the country.

ATA's Position

ATA supports the Department's proposal to implement a "ONE-DOT MIS" form which all transportation employers would complete, as appropriate, for their company and the OA regulating them. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) rules (49 CFR 382.403) would still require motor carriers to be selected randomly each year to participate in the reporting exercise.

The FMCSA currently requires one of two sets of information to be filed by the selected motor carriers. A detailed report, containing 19 data items, must be submitted in letter form if the motor carrier has any verified positive test results for either controlled substances or alcohol during the reporting period. A shorter summary with 11 data items, also in letter form, may be filed if the motor carrier's data contains only negative test results for both controlled substances and alcohol.

As a result of implementing the proposed standard form, the information collection burden would be reduced by either 12 data items or four data items. Further, the proposed form that would be used to report the annual data would be standardized and used by all OAs. The form and instructions for completing it would be placed in Part 40. This would mean that everyone completing the form would be reading the same instructions and reporting the same data. Such action would allow anyone using the reported data to make comparisons between the OAs or develop more accurate statistics for the entire Department. The simplicity of the proposed reporting form and the detail contained in the instructions would minimize the filing of incorrect data. It would also make the task of data collection easier. A

template could be created and the appropriate data entered into the proper spaces easily on a day to day basis.

ATA thanks the Department for the opportunity to comment to this rulemaking proposal. Should you have any questions concerning the ATA's comments, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neill L. Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Neill" and last name "Thomas" clearly distinguishable.

Neill L. Thomas
Director, Safety and Operations